UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.17/1994/L.7
25 May 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Second session
16-27 May 1994
Agenda item 3

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21, FOCUSING ON THE CROSS-SECTORAL COMPONENTS OF AGENDA 21 AND THE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF SUSTAINABILITY

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Information provided by Governments and organizations

1. The Commission noted with appreciation the receipt of information from 50 States and organizations. This information constitutes for the first year a creditable result. It is the Commission's hope that future years will bring an even greater exchange of information on national and other relevant experience in implementing Agenda 21. The Commission also noted that the work of the Secretariat in processing and analysing the information received provided a valuable input to the Commission.

2. The Commission agrees that the guidelines established by and for the Secretariat could be simplified, taking into account the discussion during the second session, within the framework of the decision taken at its first session, in 1993, in order to facilitate further exchange of information. Such information could be presented in tabular form, supplemented by brief descriptive texts.

3. In preparing information for voluntary submission to the Commission, countries may wish to include relevant national indicators already in use which could facilitate the exchange of information related to the implementation of Agenda 21. In this regard, the Commission reaffirms the decision contained in paragraph 30 of chapter I of the report on its first session. 1/

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4. The Commission requests relevant organizations within and outside the United Nations system, as well as donors, to provide, upon request, technical and financial assistance to countries, particularly developing countries, in the preparation of periodic communications or national reports and national Agenda 21 action plans, and notes the intention of several donors and organizations to consider such requests favourably.